

SUSTAINABILITY NEWSLETTER



SOUTH DAKOTA
STATE UNIVERSITY

Facilities & Services
Sustainability



Food Pod Ties Social & Environmental Sustainability

Have you seen the new addition to campus? The bright blue box on northwest side of campus is part of an exciting research initiative that not only touches environmental, but also social sustainability efforts. Inside the semi-truck sized structure, coined “food pod”, researchers are studying the feasibility of sustainably growing produce in the small, enclosed space. The hope? One day the “food pod” can be placed in food insecure areas to provide fresh fruits and veggies to those in its area. This research initiative is part of a multi-campus project led by Anne Fennell, SDSU Professor of Horticulture. Researchers at SDSU are looking at data points like electric power usage, water usage, how it responds in our local climate conditions, and vegetable production.

[Read about the Food Pod](#)



Harding Hall Wins Award for Reuse

Innovation, reuse, and modern are three words to describe Harding Hall today. Starting as a dorm in the 1950's, Harding Hall was recently renovated to house the Ness School of Management and Economics. All of this was accomplished while still saving the old building, but renovating it to fit current needs. These sustainability efforts were recognized by the publication American School and University in the adaptive reuse category.

[Read about Harding Hall](#)



Factors Play into Recycling

Since 1996, SDSU has offered recycling. What started as a small system has grown to encompass individual recycling bins in offices and dorm rooms. The convenience of recycling has never been easier. The importance of recycling has also never been greater, with recycling providing a way to minimize our global waste pollution and offering a more energy efficient way to make new projects. But in the world of recycling, multiple factors play a role in what can be recycled and how.

[Read about Recycling Factors](#)

Sustainability Tidbits



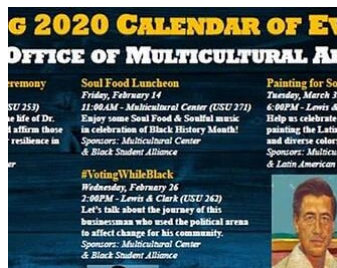
[RecycleMania](#)

For the tenth year in a row, SDSU is participating in RecycleMania, a nationwide recycling competition that takes place every February and March. The goal of the competition is to increase recycling and decrease the amount of waste on campus. Everyone can contribute by recycling all appropriate items during the competition (and always!). **[Click here](#)** to review SDSU's recycling guide.



[AASHE Membership](#)

Did you know SDSU is a member of the Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education (AASHE)? With this membership, any employee or student can login and access hundreds of resources about a variety of sustainability topics, including integrating sustainability into classes and examples for green event checklists. **[Create your account](#)** today to start learning!



Social Sustainability Events

Click here to read about social sustainability-related events offered through the Office of Multicultural Affairs.



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Harding Hall renovation receives award

DECEMBER 16, 2019



The efforts to remodel Harding Hall were recently recognized by the publication American School and University in the adaptive reuse category.

From its start in 1954 as a men's residence hall, Harding Hall has seen a few changes. However, none of those changes were as drastic as it becoming the home of the Ness School of Management and Economics.

The building has been transformed into 40 offices and two classrooms including the new location for the First Dakota National Bank e-Trading Education Lab.

Those changes were recently recognized by the publication American School and University in the adaptive reuse category. According to Leslie Olive, an architect and planner with Facilities and Services, this honor is

only the second time SDSU has been in the AS&U design awards issue.

Harding Hall was the first of three building projects on campus with a Version Four certification from the Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design rating system. The V4 certification is the highest rating in LEED, which is used to evaluate the environmental performance of a building and encourage sustainable architectural design.

Olive said the project had challenges due to a limited space between floors. Due to the amount of mechanical needs, several newer products were used.

“The building incorporates a chilled beam heating and cooling system. This is a relatively new mechanical system technology that is highly energy efficient and is an innovative use in the right application,” Olive said. “The building was converted from a double-loaded corridor with a bunch of small rooms on each side to a single-loaded corridor with branch corridors to office suites and classroom suites. That move really made a lot of difference.

“The university has goals of having not only good functional designs, but also something that is basically ‘high design’ or better than the average building,” Olive continued. “We want really good, quality design out of every project we do. To actually have somebody else recognize it and say, ‘you know, this is good work. It represents good design, has some innovative qualities to it ... it’s just affirming; that’s what I like about it.’”

The award’s jury cited Harding Hall “sets an example for adaptive reuse ... wonderful transformation of an old, tired building into a new, vibrant collection of spaces.”

“We thought it was a good representation of a building a lot of people would have thought to get rid of,” said Ryan Murphy of JLG Architects. “But we and Facilities and Services decided it was a definite candidate to be saved. And I think we executed that really well. I thought the award was well deserved and glad to see others felt the same way.”

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Recycling Factors

BY JENNIFER MCLAUGHLIN | JANUARY 16, 2020

Since 1996, SDSU has offered recycling. What started as a small system has grown to encompass individual recycling bins in offices and dorm rooms. The convenience of recycling has never been easier. The importance of recycling has also never been greater, with recycling providing a way to minimize our global waste pollution and offering a more energy efficient way to make new projects.

However, like any program, there are bumps in the road and changes to the program. If you have been on campus for any number of years, you may have noticed that the recycling “how-to” guide changes. This is one of those challenges. Recycling is primarily driven by markets and what companies are willing to make their products out of. For example, if no one is making products out of recycled glass, then the market value goes down and the product is deemed unrecyclable. However, if a company finds an economical way to reuse that product, it may come back and be recyclable again. In addition, as our culture revolves around a throw-a-way society, there is an abundance of products and thus far more supply than could meet demand.

Along with the market value, the quality of a product is also a player in the recycling game. Products that are made of low-quality material are often not valuable in the market stream. Take plastics as an example. There are so many different types of plastics from the plastic in a water bottle to plastic in a straw. While both are considered “plastics”, only one is recyclable. This boils down to their make up and chemistry of the item. Can the product be broken down and still be good enough quality to be reused? If the answer is yes, it can be recycled. If not, the product goes to the landfill.

It's also what is mixed in with the recycling that affects its quality and value. Any trash item (say food or candy wrapper) that is found in the recycling increases the amount of time to sort the recyclable products and degrades the quality of recycling. In fact, having trash in the recycling system affects the process and quality of recycling so much that recycling entities are charged if too much trash is in their recycling. This holds true for SDSU as well. To minimize any costs charged to SDSU, our custodial staff is trained in what can be recycled. As each bag of recycling is collected, the custodial staff checks that the majority of the content is recyclable. If it is recyclable, it goes to the recycling dumpster. If not, it goes to the trash dumpster.

When it comes down to it, having an effective recycling program is made possible not only by the market, but also by every individual. When people are well-versed on what can be recycled and ensure that all items are placed in the appropriate waste receptacle, communities and campuses can be sure they are positively

contributing to our shared environment.

To learn more about what can be recycled and what bins are for recycling, please visit

<https://www.sdsu.edu/sustainability/recycling>

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SDSU RECYCLING GUIDE

RECYCLE



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#1-7



STRAWS



NAPKINS, TISSUES, &
PAPER TOWELS



CHIP BAGS, CANDY, &
FOOD WRAPPERS

- NO food or liquid.
- All recycling must be loose, not bagged.
- All recycling goes in blue recycling containers.

For more information about campus sustainability visit:
www.sdstate.edu/sustainability

UPDATED 2020

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